

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are in this application, of which Claims 1, 6-8, 12-14 are in independent form, and of which Claims 8-13 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 14 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Before addressing the prior-art rejection, Applicant notes from the PAIR the Supplemental Amendment dated August 29, 2005, is marked "not entered" in PAIR. The Patent and Trademark Office has provided Applicant with no notice that that paper was not entered, much less any reason for the non-entry. Accordingly, it is requested that that Supplemental Amendment be entered, including the substitute specification filed as part of that Supplemental Amendment. Please note that if Applicant is not, in the Examiner's next paper, advised explicitly that that Supplemental Amendment has not been entered, Applicant will understand that all changes made in that Supplemental Amendment, including the substitute specification, have in fact been entered and will be included in any patent that may issue from the present application.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the statement in the outstanding Office Action that Claim 14 is not generic to the two Species identified in the election-of-species requirement imposed by the Examiner in the Office Action dated January 10, 2006. The Office Action states that Claim 14 contains requirements (limitations) not found in Claim 13 (one of the claims directed to the non-elected Species). Applicant believes that the Examiner may have misconstrued Claim 14, as follows.

Claim 14 recites a developing step, and also recites that the developing performed in the developing step includes one of two processes, labeled processing A and processing B. That is, Claim 14 is met by a method in which developing using either

processing A or processing B is present. Contrary to the statement in the Office Action, Claim 13 is in fact narrower than Claim 14 in all respects, in that Claim 13 specifies that the developing performed must be that which is labeled processing B in Claim 14. It may be that the Examiner has been misled by the fact that Claim 13 recites a developing step and al recites a converting step, which in Claim 14, processing B includes both of these steps. If the Examiner believes that this is a reason to conclude that Claim 14 is not generic, the Examiner is respectfully requested to explain in what way a method could possibly meet Claim 13 without also falling within the scope of Claim 14.

In any event, Applicant again submits that Claim 14 is indeed generic.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,738,151 B1 (Kato).

According to the aspects of the present invention to which independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 14 are respectively directed, it is possible to achieve high-quality image processing (although it takes more time) by using the first mode, executing development a number of times according to the output devices (lines 4-25 of page 28 in the originally filed specification), and it is also possible to achieve high-speed image processing (although the resulting image quality is lower) by using the second mode, executing one-time development (line 26 of page 28 to line 14 of page 30 in the originally filed specification).^{1/}

Thus, according to these aspects of the invention, it is possible to provide these two kinds of modes, whereby a user can freely and effectively select either one of the high-quality image process and the high-speed image process.

^{1/} It is of course to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of this or any other particular embodiment that may be referred to.

First of all, it should be noted that *Kato* uses the following three modes:

- (1) the mode of matching the color rendering ranges of the color printers 1 and 2 (Fig. 8);
- (2) the mode of discriminating the high quality printer and then transmitting the page for which high quality is necessary to that printer (Fig. 12); and
- (3) the mode of transmitting the data of a color page to the quadruple tandem machine and transmitting the data of a black/white page to a different machine (Fig. 13).

Applicant respectfully points out that it is impossible to tell from anything in *Kato* how many times rendering occurs in any of these modes.

More specifically, in mode (1) of *Kato*, the rendering ranges are matched to each other. However, in this mode, by executing the development once using the profile of the printer whose color reproduction range is small and then transmitting the rendering-processed image to the two printers whose the color reproduction ranges are different from each other, it is possible to match the color rendering ranges of these two printers. This implies that it is possible to achieve mode (1) only through one-time development. For this reason, to execute development a number of times according to the output device (first mode of the invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 14) cannot easily be executed in the *Kato* mode (1). In other words, it is believed that the Examiner's opinion in "Response to Arguments" in the office action is incorrect.

Thus, it is believed that the invention is not taught or suggested by *Kato*, and thus independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 14 should be allowed promptly.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a

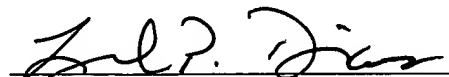
reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims under rejection in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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